Stagnation in production of foodgrains

3394. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain production in the country is stagnating at around 415 million tonnes for the last few years;

(b) if so, whether the per capita production of foodgrains has come down to 1970 levels; and

(c) whether the loan-waiver package announced in the current budget is likely to enthuse the farm sector towards bringing larger areas under crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The foodgrains production which was 198.36 million tonnes during 2004-05, increased to 208.60 million tonnes during 2005-06, 217.28 million tonnes during 2006-07 and further to 227.32 million tonnes during 2007-08 (3rd advance Estimates released on 22.04.2008). The per capita production of foodgrains at 201.4 kilogram during 2007-08 is higher as compared to 200.4 kilogram during 1970-71.

(c) The loan-waiver package announced in the current budget is likely to have an overall positive impact, including crop production.

Madhya Pradesh Government's memorandum for draught relief

†3395. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any memorandum from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for draught relief a few days ago;

(b) the amount for draught relief sought by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the memorandum alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) the reactions of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In January and March, 2008, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted Memoranda seeking total assistance of Rs. 1883.81 crores form the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for drought relief, which, *inter-alia,* included assistance for seed minikits, drinking water arrangements (urban and rural), cattle care and employment generation. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 18th to 21st February, 2008 for assessement of the situation. This will now be considered by the High Level Committee (HLC) for a decision on the quantum of assistance from NCCF to the State, for drought relief.

Justifiable price for paddy comparatively to wheat

3396. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minimum Support Price for paddy and wheat was same for both upto 1995;

(b) if so, what is the background to give more to wheat than that of paddy;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cost of cultivation and other allied charges for paddy is more than wheat;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.